

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 465

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Lieutenant Colonel Richard Tyler Willbanks for his meritorious service as Deputy Commander of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the United States Army.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body take great pleasure in paying tribute to those exemplary citizens who have devoted their careers and themselves to service in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, one such heroic citizen is Lieutenant Colonel Richard Tyler Willbanks of Gallatin, who has rendered meritorious service to this State and nation since 2016 as the Deputy Commander of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, known as "The Old Guard"; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Richard T. Willbanks enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1989 and earned his commission as an officer in 1998 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at New Mexico State University; he holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from New Mexico State University and a master's degree in international relations from Webster University; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Willbanks's first duty assignment as an officer was Camp Hovey, South Korea, where he served as a Mechanized Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) Executive Officer and Bradley Fighting Vehicle Platoon Leader; and

WHEREAS, following his service in Korea, Lieutenant Colonel Willbanks was assigned to The Old Guard, where he served as Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Assistant Regimental S-4; and

WHEREAS, upon successful completion of the Captain's Career Course, Lieutenant Colonel Richard T. Willbanks served as the S-3 Air and Assistant S-3 at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, during the unit transition and fielding of the 172nd Stryker Brigade; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Willbanks served as Commander, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) in Alaska and during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 2005-2006 in Mosul and Baghdad, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, he was assigned to Operations Group at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, where he served as a Company Team Observer/Controller for the Airborne/Light Infantry Task Force (Tarantula) before being assigned as a G-3 Maneuver Planner for Operations Group; and

WHEREAS, upon his completion of Intermediate Level Education at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Lieutenant Colonel Willbanks was assigned to the Army Evaluation Task Force, 5th Brigade, 1st Armor Division, Fort Bliss, Texas, where he served as the 1st Battalion Operations Officer; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Willbanks was attached to the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Baumholder, Germany, where he served as a Senior Combat Advisor for 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment during a deployment to Faryab Province, Afghanistan, for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 2010-2011; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Willbanks was assigned as the Battalion Executive Officer for 2/363rd Training Support Battalion, 5th Armor Brigade, Mesa, Arizona, where he mobilized the battalion to Fort Bliss, Texas, during 2013-2014; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Lieutenant Colonel Richard T. Willbanks was assigned to the Office of the Program Manager – Saudi Arabia National Guard, where he served as a Senior Combat Advisor with the Ministry of National Guard and the Combat Training Center Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from Saudi Arabia, Lieutenant Colonel Willbanks was assigned to The Old Guard as the Lead Inaugural Planner and subsequently assumed the role of Deputy Regimental Commander in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his exemplary military service, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Tyler Willbanks has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Army Commendation Medal (three awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (three awards), the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Willbanks's prestigious awards also include the Parachutist Wings, Air Assault Wings, Ranger Tab, and Expert Infantryman's Badge; his unit awards include the Valorous Unit Award and the Meritorious Unit Citation; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that Lieutenant Colonel Willbanks should be specially recognized, as he has distinguished himself as a leader of the greatest dedication and ability; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Lieutenant Colonel Richard Tyler Willbanks for his meritorious service as the Deputy Commander of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, thank him for his years of devoted service to his country as a military officer, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.